

Response
Application No. 09/939,736
Attorney Docket No. 011036

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 are amended and claim 5 is canceled. No new subject matter is added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakayama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,703,186).

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that the subject matter of claims 5-9 is allowable.

To expedite prosecution, Applicant hereby amends claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5. Claims 6 and 7 have also been amended to depend from amended claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejections are now moot in view of the amendment to independent claim 1.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response

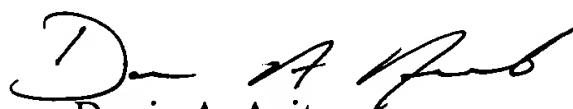
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrin A. Auito', is written over the printed name.

Darrin A. Auito

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